

SENATE FILE NO. SF0011

Burials of indigent veterans-amendments.

Sponsored by: Joint Transportation, Highways & Military  
Affairs Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to defense forces and affairs; amending  
2 eligibility requirements for indigent veterans in order for  
3 counties to request reimbursement for preparing and  
4 transporting indigent veterans for burial; specifying  
5 indigent veterans who qualify for burial expenses paid by  
6 the department of family services also qualify for payment  
7 of burial expenses by counties; increasing the amount paid  
8 for burial expenses by the department of family services;  
9 clarifying priority of payment for burial expenses of  
10 indigent veterans; making a conforming amendment; and  
11 providing for an effective date.

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13 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

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1           **Section 1.** W.S. 19-14-101(a), (b) and by creating a  
2 new subsection (d) and 42-2-103(c) are amended to read:

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4           **19-14-101. Burial of indigents.**

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6           (a) The board of county commissioners of each county  
7 shall provide for the preparation of the body and  
8 transmittal to and burial in the veteran's cemetery of any  
9 veteran other than a dishonorably discharged veteran of the  
10 armed forces of the United States ~~who served on behalf of~~  
11 ~~the United States in any war or conflict as defined in~~  
12 ~~section 101, title 38, United States Code and~~ who dies  
13 leaving insufficient funds to defray the necessary funeral  
14 expenses. The amount expended for transporting the body  
15 shall not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00). The amount  
16 paid under this section for burial shall not exceed one  
17 thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00). Each board shall  
18 account for the county expenses incurred under this  
19 subsection during a fiscal year. By August 1 of each year,  
20 a county may request reimbursement by the department of  
21 family services for the expenses incurred under this  
22 subsection for the preceding fiscal year. The department of

1 family services shall reimburse the expenses in accordance  
2 with W.S. 35-1-428(c).

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4 (b) Before assuming charge and expense for  
5 preparation and transmittal of the body and burial, each  
6 board of county commissioners shall first determine  
7 according to procedures they establish that the deceased  
8 veteran of the armed forces of the United States whose body  
9 they are called upon to bury served in the armed forces of  
10 the United States, ~~during World War II or any preceding war~~  
11 ~~in which the United States was a party or during the Korean~~  
12 ~~or Vietnam conflicts,~~ was other than dishonorably  
13 discharged and died in the county leaving insufficient  
14 means to defray the necessary funeral expenses.

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16 (d) Payment made for burial expenses by the board of  
17 county commissioners in accordance with this section shall  
18 be considered payment of last resort that follows all other  
19 sources and is provided subsequent to all other benefits.

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21 **42-2-103. Provision of assistance and services;**  
22 **duties of department; burial assistance; department of**  
23 **health state supplemental security income program.**

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2 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this  
3 article and subject to the availability of funds, the  
4 department shall pay the burial or cremation expenses of  
5 any recipient of aid under the personal opportunities with  
6 employment responsibilities (POWER) program, supplemental  
7 security income or Medicaid at the time of his death and  
8 without sufficient means in his own estate or other  
9 resources to provide burial or cremation. The amount paid  
10 under this subsection shall not exceed ~~one thousand dollars~~  
11 ~~(\$1,000.00)~~ one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00)  
12 after consideration of funds available to the recipient  
13 from all other sources. In addition to the amount paid for  
14 burial or cremation under this subsection, an amount shall  
15 be paid for transportation expenses to the veteran's  
16 cemetery for a deceased veteran who qualifies for burial  
17 there and who qualifies for burial expenses under this  
18 subsection in an amount not to exceed five hundred dollars  
19 (\$500.00). In determining eligibility under this  
20 subsection, the department shall not consider as available  
21 funds, an amount up to or equal to one thousand five  
22 hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) of the corpus of a Medicaid  
23 qualifying trust meeting the requirements of W.S. 42-4-113.

1 No board of county commissioners shall be responsible for  
2 any burial or cremation expenses in excess of the amount  
3 paid under this subsection. Burial or cremation expenses  
4 under this subsection shall not include those expenses  
5 relating to cemetery costs.

6

7 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2026.

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(END)